

The Benefits of Using Aerial Survey Data with a Particular Focus on Climate Change Applications and EU Strategy for Data and Digital Transformation

Martínez-Fernández Marcos (Spain), Musäeus Simon (Germany), Jadot André (Belgium), Tidmarsh Rachel (United Kingdom) and Romanowski Florian (Poland)

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SUMMARY

Aerial surveys and photogrammetric techniques are primal technologies in Earth Observation. Today, 80% of the high-resolution data for planning is created by aerial surveys. However, despite its crucial role, a large majority of daily users are unaware of the creation process of these ubiquitous geospatial data and the enormous value they create for many industries and society at large.

In the digital transformation era, many efforts are being made to incorporate new technologies into our daily lives to promote more sustainable cities, prepare for emergency responses, and fight the climate crisis. In this environment, geospatial data as an indicator of “the place where things happen” must be understood as a key ingredient to the digital transformation, being the most effective way to observe, model, and understand the world. Smart cities, self-driving cars, drones’ airspace management, Virtual Reality scenarios are just examples of the vast array of new uses of geospatial data. During the coming years, all will require a considerable amount of exact and reliable data that will allow any type of multi-space or multi-time analysis to be performed.

With this paper, we make a case for aerial survey as a cross-cutting and enabling sector in Earth Observation and the geospatial industry as a whole. We will add to the creation of “geo-awareness” by describing the new opportunities our branch contributes to the digital transformation of the industry.

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